

REMARKS

Applicant has cancelled claims 2, 3, 4 and 18. Claims 1, 5-17 and 19 are currently pending in the present application.

ISSUES UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 7-17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Christiansen. The Examiner has also rejected claims 1, 7 and 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either one of Browning or Brown. Finally, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6, and 10-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Da Costa. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 13 and 16 to include the limitations corresponding to a valve retainer with sides of different lengths. As the Examiner has stated under the heading "Allowable Subject Matter", claims 4 and 5 which are directed to similar limitations would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have included all the limitations of claim 4 into claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in allowable form.

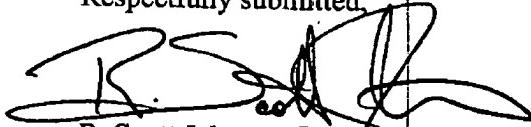
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all claims are in allowable form. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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